VILLAGE SCHOOL, MONTACUTE, SOMERSETSHIRE.

THE small village school standing in the Market-place at Montacute, appears from the style to have been erected in the reign of Henry VIII. Like the rest of the buildings in the vicinity, it is built of stone from the adjoining quarry of Hamhill. The building, with the exception of its ornamental parts, remains in tolerable preservation. Under the upper window is a shield supported by two boys, surrounded by some curious old foliage: the shield has in it the letters R. S., with a staff or stick, somewhat resembling the letter I, between them.*



FINIAL.

* *Inscription, Montacute House.*—The inscription on the entrance-door of Montacute House is,—

"Through this wide opening gate,
None come too early, none return too late;"

instead of "*some*," &c., as printed last week.

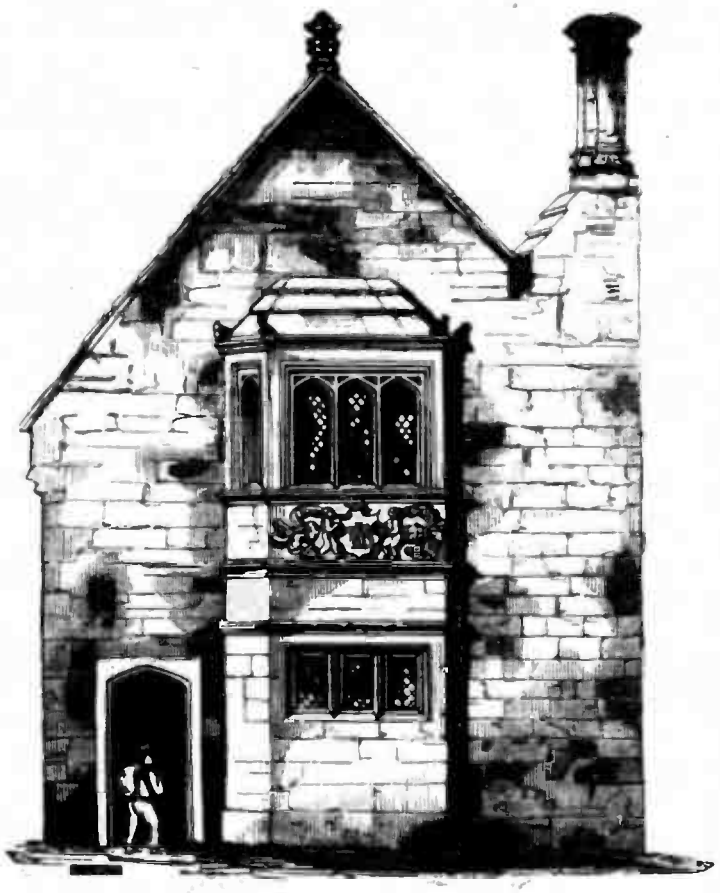
BENCH END FROM HARMONDSWORTH CHURCH, MIDDLESEX.

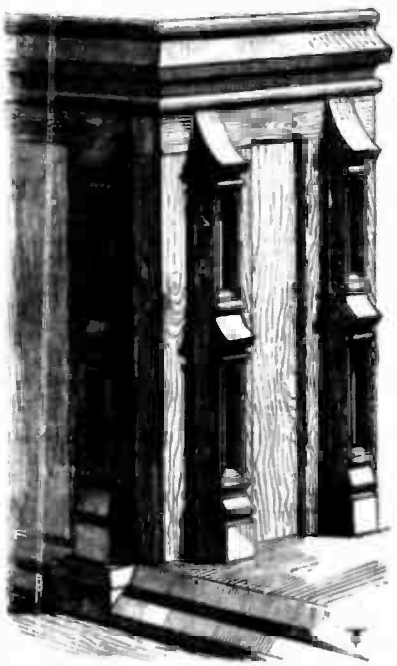
BENCH ends have been for a long time, and still are, taking the place of pews; so that in a few years we shall probably have them universally adopted in our churches.

To this end we intend to continue our series of examples from time to time, taking care to select those which will be found most useful in practice.

The accompanying specimen is from Harmondsworth Church, Middlesex, whereof we some time ago gave an engraving of the ancient doorway.

VILLAGE SCHOOL, MONTACUTE, SOMERSETSHIRE.





BENCH END, HARMONDSWORTH CHURCH, MIDDLESEX.

ALCOHOL, AS USED IN ARTS AND TRADES.

MR. EDITOR,—The deservedly great influence which THE BUILDER exercises over an extensive field of public opinion, leads me to request the favour of a place in it, for a few observations on a subject which has long engaged much of my attention, now recalled thereto by an article which lately appeared in your most useful publication, regarding the Alcohol used in French polishing.

I need not inform you, Sir, that independent of its consumption as a potable liquor, Alcohol is most extensively used in many arts, trades, manufactures, and branches of domestic economy; that it is more or less indispensable in most of them, and that its invaluable properties might be more generally and advantageously availed of, if it could be obtained at a lower price. At the toilette and tea-table, in the bedchamber—both of the sick and healthy—and in the nursery, in the naturalist's museum, in the artist's workshop, and the chemist's laboratory, it is one of the most necessary and useful agents we possess.

You are well aware, Sir, that in other countries its consumption in the above, and many other ways, is much greater than in England, conducing in no trifling degree, not only to their national prosperity, but also to the health, comfort, convenience, cleanliness, and elegance of those who use it; and it certainly appears desirable to devise some means so reduce its price in this country, if it can be done without danger to public morals, *ultimate* injury to her Majesty's revenue, or serious damage to the interests of other trades, especially to those already engaged in the spirit trade in its present state.

With the sincerest wishes for my country's

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